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LETTER DATED 23 JANUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that the Italian Government deemed it necessary to point out to the Iraqi authorities that, in the framework of the military action in which Italy is participating under the terms of Security Council resolution 678 (1990), it expects Iraq to comply strictly with the Third Geneva Convention.

Representations were made to the Embassy of Iraq in Rome on 20 and 22 January to remind Iraq of its obligations under the Third Geneva Convention.

Following the Iraqi television's broadcast displaying among others a captive Italian pilot, the Italian Government conveyed to the Ambassador of Iraq its strong condemnation of this action. Iraq was therefore enjoined to comply rigorously with article 13 of the Third Geneva Convention. Furthermore, Iraq was warned in the strongest terms, recalling article 23 of the same Convention, against carrying out its alleged intention to move prisoners of war to strategic sites in the country.

Italy also asked the International Committee of the Red Cross to play its institutional role concerning prisoners in Iraq.

At the same time, the Italian Government indicated that it will scrupulously comply with the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions, as well as with all other relevant international agreements on human rights.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vieri TRAXLER
Ambassador

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